




Office of the City Manager

WEEKLY M E M O

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Noah A. Simon, City Manager 
Re: Weekly City Manager's Report February 13, 2015

Good afternoon. I hope you all are well. Attached to this week's update is the monthly Police Department report, the February 12th School Board Minutes, and the February 19th Agendas for the Architectural Review Board, Capital Improvement Plan meeting, and the City Council meeting. I am also forwarding the newsletter from the Historic Lexington Foundation and the calendar for the next two weeks.

Automated Meter Reading Project – Work on this project is set to resume during the remainder of February and March. Mike Kennedy has drafted the attached letter that will be mailed Friday to all impacted customers. The letter describes the work being done, the reasons for the work and provides customers contact information should the customer have questions or experience any issues. A one-page sheet of frequently asked questions about thermal expansion will be posted on the City's Website (copy attached). The City offers a Financial Assistance Program that is still available. The application form will soon be posted on the Website (copy attached).

The towers and antenna are being installed at Enfield and work is being conducted at City Hall today. About 25 radio read meters are in place for testing. The contractor will be starting the week of February 23rd with VMI, W&L, and the hospital getting the larger meters first. At full mobilization they expect to have 6 teams of 2 and expect to install 180 meters per day. If they make their production numbers, then they will finish in about 15 working days, depending on weather.

Lexington Police Promotional Ceremony – Reminder that the promotional ceremony will take place on Wednesday, February 25th at 2:00 p.m. at the Center for Leadership and Ethics at the Virginia Military Institute Marshall Hall, 500 Anderson Drive. Please let us know if you will be attending.

Calendar: February 16 – 27, 2015



City of Lexington

Department of Police

540-462-3705



To: Noah A. Simon

From: Chief A.S. Thomas

Date: February 10, 2015

Ref: LPD Monthly Report – January 2015

The Lexington Police Department has maintained accredited status as a means of ensuring effective service delivery to the citizens of Lexington through voluntary adherence to state standards in furtherance of agency mission and goals. The department takes pride in benchmarking its policies and procedures against state best practices for law enforcement agencies. In January 2015 the LPD will be seeking its fourth consecutive accreditation award. Listed below are the four assessors from The Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition (VALEAC) that conducted a three day on-site accreditation assessment of the Lexington Police Department. They conducted inspections related to department equipment, facilities, policies, procedures, evidence maintenance, records management, personnel, police operations, etc. I expect to receive the team leader's final report in a week or two; I am aware of a few issues that were discovered during the on-sight but remain confident that we will receive reaccreditation status. The final recommendation will be forwarded to the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission for Board approval on February 19, 2015. I will forward you a copy of the report to share with City Council.

- Accreditation Manager Michael W. Layman, James Madison University Department of Police and Public Safety.
- Master Police Officer Harvey Finkel, City of Charlottesville Police Department
- Sergeant Chris Douglas, Prince George Police Department
- Detective Lisa Best City, Charlottesville Police Department.

STAFF REPORT

Chief Thomas and Investigator Smith met with Lauren Kozak, the new Title IX Coordinator with Washington and Lee University to discuss law enforcement involvement in the sexual assault incidents involving students.

Chief Thomas and Noah Simon attended the Regional Law Enforcement Crime Line Meeting at the Sheriff's Office on January 25, 2015.

Chief Thomas, Lieutenant Riley, and Investigator Smith met with representatives of the Bonner and Shepard programs with Washington and Lee University, and the Ministerial Alliance. The emphasis of these meetings is to reach out to college students and other community members in an effort to improve our Community Watch Program. The police department is encouraging more citizen involvement in our crime prevention efforts. Additionally, Lieutenant Riley continues his efforts towards Park Safety as we gear up for warmer weather in the spring.

Lieutenant Riley is also working on a project to document sidewalks that need to be repaired. This project will involve the entire department conducting foot patrols and reporting City sidewalks in need of repair during normal patrol.

Captain Miller gave a Cub Scout Troop a tour of the police department on January 17th and gave a safety talk to the Lexington Moms Club on January 20, 2015.

PATROL OPERATIONS

During the month of January, patrol officers assisted with the Lee/Jackson Day Parade and other downtown events. Additional Officers were also called in to assist with the large crowds during the W&L "Tear Night". The police department coordinated efforts with W&L Public Safety and staff members from the Dean's Office. We can expect additional large parties and activities in the near future as the school encourages students to hold more social events in the City for safety concerns.

Patrol Night Shift B completed 30 after-hours business checks and left LPD Business Check Cards at each location. Officer located three unsecure buildings; they notified owners, cleared, and secured each site. Officer Mohler located a back window unlocked at the Miller House. The business owner was contacted and he was very appreciative for Officer Mohler's actions. B Shift also conducted extra patrols in the City parks, locating vehicles after hours in each park on various dates. Subjects were asked to move along and observe closing times of parks.

CRIME STATS

Patrol Officers responded to 18 Fight/Disorderly calls for service during the reporting period. We will continue to focus reducing violence in our community.

Crime Stat Comparison Chart			
	2013	2014	2015
Misdemeanor Arrests	16	42	67
Felony Arrests	23	6	1
Drunk In Public	3	2	3
Driving Under Influence	0	2	2
Speeding	25	18	23
Overtime Parking	31	68	87
Marijuana Possession	7	0	0

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Officer Davis continued his good work with the local Boy Scouts throughout the month and volunteered help coach the Maury River Middle School wrestling program.

1st Sergeant Mike Frost coordinated a project designing, producing, and selling limited edition *Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Police Patches*. The project was a success raising \$1000 towards a donation towards breast cancer research and support. Attached is photo taken outside of Singapore of the Lexington Police Department Pink Patch supporting Breast Cancer Awareness being recognized by Chief Commissioner of Victoria (Australia) Police Christine Nixon and Janet Beebe. Ms. Nixon sends heartfelt kudos to the Police Force for their honorable extracurricular community service.



Also received a Thank You Note for 1st Sergeant Mike Frost on January 4, 2015:

Chief Thomas,

I just wanted you to know how much my friend and I appreciate 1st Sergeant Frost's help on the evening of Friday, December 26th. He was so nice about helping us to locate a car parked at the East Midland Trail Tire Company. The story is too long to explain in this card. Just ask First Sergeant Frost and he can explain the details of the situation. Thank you for having such a helpful police officer on your force.

*Sincerely,
Beth Schram*

Received a Thank You Note for Officer Elizabeth Stewart on January 20, 2015.

Dear Elizabeth,

I read the report in my council packet about your involvement in locating the Kendal resident. As a caretaker of one of the residents and a Kendal at Lexington Board member, I want to personally thank you for your efforts and dedication to helping others. I saw the Christmas card from PD as well and wondered how that came about! It is comforting in knowing there are officers like you in our midst, who portray skills, the character and commitment necessary to excel in law enforcement not as just a job but a lifestyle. That is the key to never feeling like you are going "to work!" I can tell already that you see the big picture by incorporating your extra sense of community and caring. These qualities will take you far in your career and life!

Also, please convey a special thank you to all the other dedicated officers involved in assisting with your notable efforts!

*Best,
Marylin Alexander*



Lexington City Schools**Minutes****January 12, 2015**

The Lexington City School Board met January 12, 2015, at 4:31 p.m. in the School Board Office. Present: Leslie Straughan, Rick Cruze, Jeannie VanNess, Owen Collins, Leonard Stewart, Daniel Lyons, Superintendent, and Shelby Cash, Clerk.

The Board Chair called the meeting to order.

The Superintendent started the Budget Work Session. He stated that the Governor's Budget is holding K-12 harmless for now with housing and K-12 as the main priorities. Concerning staffing, we are looking at personnel with some reassignment of responsibilities. The high school bill will also be a large factor in this budget.

The Superintendent also stated the following:

- . The City is expecting level funding
- . We are planning a step increase for teachers
- . We will try budgeting an Incentive Bonus for all staff with half being given in May during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- . May need a second meeting in February for budget approval

The Budget Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

The School Board Chair welcomed Mr. Tim Martino, the new Elementary Principal.

Upon motion of Mr. Cruze, seconded by Mr. Collins, the Board approved the Agenda.

There were no communications from citizens or comments from the public.

Upon motion of Ms. VanNess, seconded by Mr. Cruze, the Board approved the following Consent Agenda.

- . Minutes of December 8, 2014
- . December Payroll \$265,582.29
- . December Expenditures \$111,786.37

FY14 YTD \$2,602,613.94

Petty Cash Reports

The Superintendent presented Enrollment Figures as follows:

WES 301

LDMS 193

RCHS 172

TOTAL 666 – Estimate

The Superintendent stated that January is Bullying Prevention Month.

The Superintendent has set up a meeting with Delegate Ben Cline when the Board goes to Richmond at the end of January, but is not sure about a meeting with Senator Creigh Deeds yet.

The Superintendent attended the 17th Annual State of the Community Breakfast and stated that the Mayor is supportive of education.

The Superintendent informed the Board that a written update from Bill Blatter on the Waddell Project was included in their Board packet.

The Superintendent thanked Rockbridge Community Yoga for their \$424.50 contribution and stated that a check had been received from Wells-Fargo Bank for \$1500. Also, Ms. Leigh Mayo, LDMS Beta Club sponsor, received a letter of congratulations from Ms. Audrey Hawkins, Co-Chair of the Rockbridge Christmas Basket Committee, for the Beta Club's assistance in packing the food boxes.

Upon motion of Mr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Cruze, the Board approved a Field Trip to Hampton for the Beta Club, February 23-24, 2015.

Mr. Leonard Stewart reported on the Rockbridge County Board Meeting.

The Superintendent presented the results of the Superintendent Survey stating there were an overall total of 80 respondents. Out of a total of 36 respondents, 80.5% recommended Mr. Scott Jefferies for the position.

The Superintendent presented the new proposed RCHS Tuition Agreement for the Board to review. The Board agreed for it to be brought back next month for approval.

Upon motion of Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Cruze, the Board entered Executive Session under Virginia Code 2.2-3711: Section A, Paragraph One.

Upon motion of Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Collins, the Board approved the hiring of Mr. Scott Jefferies as School Superintendent, pending contract negotiations and Board approval of the contract. The vote was unanimous.

Upon motion of Mr. Cruze, seconded by Ms. VanNess, the Board accepted the retirement of Ms. Shelby Cash, Clerk of the Board, effective June 30, 2015.

Upon motion of Mr. Stewart, seconded by Ms. VanNess, the Board adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Board Chair

Board Clerk

LEXINGTON ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD THURSDAY,
February 19, 2015
4:00P.M.

First Floor Meeting Room (Community Meeting Room),
Lexington City Hall
300 E. Washington Street, Lexington, Virginia

AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
- 3. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a) **COA2015 -3** Certificate of Appropriateness request of Sallie Sebrell for a new awning to be located at 115 South Main Street.
 - b) **COA2015-4** Certificate of Appropriateness request for an addition for Project Horizon located at 120 Varner Lane.
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting Minutes from the meeting of 5th of February, 2015.
- 5. ADJOURN**

City Council Work Session
Thursday, February 19, 2015 7:00 p.m.
Extension Office Meeting Room
150 S. Main Street, Lexington, VA

1. **Call to Order** – Mayor Elrod
2. **Review Capital Improvements Plan** – City Manager Simon*
3. **Adjourn** – Mayor Elrod



LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
Thursday, February 19, 2015 8:00 p.m.
Rockbridge County Administration Building
150 S. Main Street

1. Call to Order – Mayor Elrod

2. Approval of Minutes – Mayor Elrod

- A. February 5, 2015 Social and Economic Services Committee Meeting*
- B. February 5, 2015 City Council Regular Meeting*

3. Public Hearing

- A. Rockbridge Historical Society Preliminary Subdivision Plat for Two Properties at the Intersection of South Randolph Street and East Washington Street – Terry Harrington*

4. Citizens' Remarks and Comments

- A. Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Council – Representatives of the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Council would like to remark on biking and bike facilities in the City of Lexington

5. Presentations

- A. Economic Development Committee of the Chamber of Commerce Serving Lexington, Buena Vista and Rockbridge County – Presentation by Gregg Amonette on Phase I of the 20/20 Update and Appeal for funding*

6. Unfinished Business

7. Reports and Communications

A. City Council Committees

- 1. Finance Committee – F. Friedman
- 2. Physical Services Committee – M. Alexander
- 3. Social and Economic Services Committee (SESC) – C. Smith

B. Boards and Commissions

- 1. Planning Commission – P. Rhamey
- 2. Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission – F. Friedman

3. Main Street Lexington – C. Smith
4. Regional Tourism Board – C. Smith
5. Threshold – M. Alexander
6. Rockbridge Area Recreation Organization (RARO) – D. Sigler
7. Rockbridge Area Community Services (RACS)

C. Mayor

D. City Manager

1. Adopt the Appropriation Resolution 2014-06B incorporating the budget amendments for the second quarter of FY2015*
2. Resolution 2015-01 Setting Personal Property Tax Relief Percentage at 60% for 2015*

E. City Attorney

8. New Business

9. Adjourn



Department of Public Works

10 February 2015

Dear Water Customer:

Work on the City's Automated Meter Reading project is about to resume now that the required radio frequency license has been issued by the Federal Communications Commission. This was a very lengthy process because of Lexington's location within the National Radio Quiet Zone.

During the month of February and March, Professional Meters, Inc. (PMI) will be installing new meters with radio transmitters in all customer meter boxes, meter size 1-inch or smaller, that will send data from your meter to the Public Works Department. This data will provide up to the minute information for your account that will be used for billing purposes and will alert us if there is unusually high usage indicating a possible leak. We can then notify you. Single family residential homes typically have meters smaller than 1-inch, so a new meter with radio transmitter will be installed.

In order to protect our water distribution system from contamination, a backflow prevention device, also called a check valve, will be installed in the meter box. This device allows water to flow from the distribution system to your property, but prevents water flowing from your property back into the distribution system. These devices were installed in many meter boxes back in 2011. Installation of remaining devices will be completed in this final phase of the project.

PMI will place a door hanger at your property notifying you of planned installation work in the meter box at your property. There will be no service disruption if only a radio transmitter is installed on meters greater than 1-inch capacity. When the new radio read meters are installed and if it is necessary to install a backflow prevention device, there will be a brief service disruption, typically 30 minutes or less.

Please note that there can be complications when a check valve is added to a water line that supplies a hot water tank. Water expands when heated increasing the water pressure. The check valve is keeping water from flowing back into the City water system, which means that increased water pressure is absorbed by your plumbing system. Cracks and leaks can develop. See the information below, which was previously provided to customers in calendar year 2012.

To prevent problems, the City Public Works Department recommends two things:

1. **Add an expansion tank to your system if you do not already have one.** An expansion tank will allow water to expand without causing damage. *If you don't know whether you already have an expansion tank or you're not sure whether you need an expansion tank, we recommend arranging for a licensed plumber to advise you. If you've already installed an expansion tank, then you need not take any further action.*

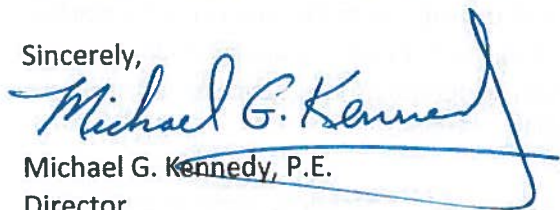
2. **Add a pressure reducing valve to your system if you're in an area of the City where water pressures exceeds 80 psi (pounds per square inch).** (You can ignore this recommendation if you already have a pressure reducing valve on your system.) *The City will check the current water pressure at your property at no cost. Please e-mail us at publicwork@lexingtonva.gov or call 463-3154 to schedule a visit. Otherwise, you may want a licensed plumber to advise you of the need for a pressure reducing valve. If your pressure was checked previously, then it does not need to be checked again. If you are unsure, then contact Public Works.*

Lexington City Council established a program whereby the City will reimburse qualifying low-income residents for the installation costs of an expansion tank or pressure reducing valve. To determine if you qualify and to participate, please call 463-3154 and say you're interested in the Water System Upgrade Program.

If you have questions please contact Public Works at (540) 463-3154. For more information on thermal expansion and financial assistance you can visit our website at www.lexingtonva.gov.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work to improve delivery of city services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael G. Kennedy". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the last name.

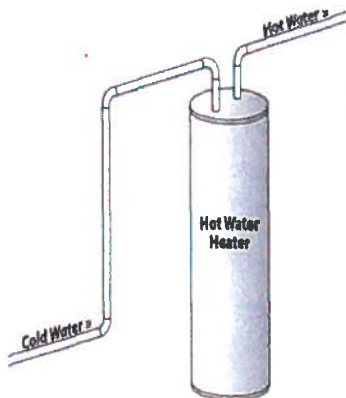
Michael G. Kennedy, P.E.
Director

Thermal Expansion

In order to protect our water from unknown contamination and maintain the water quality we have, we require the use of a backflow prevention device at the meter that does not allow water that has flowed past the water meter into a building to flow back out into the main water lines. This is called a closed system. In conjunction with the backflow prevention device a thermal expansion tank is required. The thermal expansion tank is a simple and efficient method to ensure that your system is safe.

A Virginia licensed plumber should be able to take care of your thermal expansion needs. This will enable worry-free installation of your device, according to code. You can also choose to do-it-yourself. The tank is available for purchase at many of the local plumbing and hardware stores. HD Supply, our contractor, has a contract through local plumber Graham Moore (540) 570-3452. For more information please call 463-3154.

Without Expansion Tank



Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: What is Thermal Expansion?

A: Thermal expansion refers to the characteristic of water to expand when it is heated. Unlike air, which can be compressed, water grows in volume, and must be accommodated.

Q: Why is Thermal Expansion occurring?

A: In a water heater, thermal expansion can create more pressure than the system can handle. When unchecked, this pressure can result in expensive leaks, as well as damage to the water heater, pipes, or other fixtures.

Q: When is a Thermal expansion device necessary?

A: Thermal expansion is necessary when any of the following occurs:

- A recent water meter replacement
- A water heater replacement
- The construction of a new home
- When a backflow preventer is installed on the water meter or a pressure reducing valve is installed on the service line.

Q: How do I resolve this Thermal Expansion problem?

A: Thermal expansion can be solved by installing an expansion tank to your system adjacent to your water heater. This tank will accept overflow from your water heater, alleviating the pressure building up in the heating tank. Expansion tanks are inexpensive and the most conservation-friendly solution.

Q: I have a Temperature and Pressure Relief (T&P) valve installed, isn't that enough?

A: No. A T&P valve is not a thermal expansion device, because the constant dripping of water from the valve can result in a mineral deposit that can create a blockage, causing the T&P valve to become ineffective. Plumbing standards and codes require that thermal expansion be properly addressed.

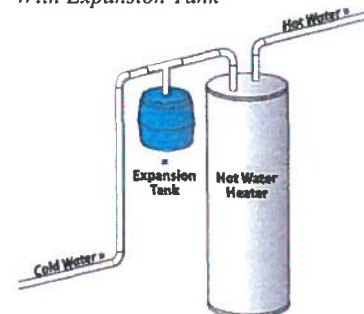
Q: Are there any building codes with requirements for resolving thermal expansion problems?

A: Yes. Section 607.3 of the 2009 International Plumbing code adopted by the State of Virginia.

Q: Is the tank required on all types of water heaters?

A: Any type of water heater that has a tank and stores the hot water is required to have an expansion tank. "On Demand" water heating units would not require a thermal expansion tank.

With Expansion Tank



CITY OF LEXINGTON

Public Works Department
890 Shop Road
Lexington, Virginia 24450
[540] 463-3154

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST
FOR EXPANSION TANK OR
PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE**
Fax [540] 464-4198

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Water Account #: _____

Amount of expenses requested for reimbursement: \$ _____
(Please provide legible copy of itemized bill)

Number of individuals living in residence: _____

Annual income of **all** persons living in home: \$ _____
(Please provide copy of the first page of your 2013 Tax return for all individuals; if
income tax forms are not required, please note this case.)

Should the income for 2014 or 2015 reflect a significant change, please explain
why: _____

I certify that the above information is true and correct.

Signature

Recommendations:

Amount recommended for reimbursement: \$ _____

☐ Approval Recommended

☐ Disapproval Recommended _____

Public Works Director

Date

☐ Approved

☐ Disapproved _____

City Manager

Date

Eligibility: Residences owned or occupied by persons with income limitations falling within
the financial guidelines listed below.

Amount of grant: Actual cost of installation of an expansion tank and/or a pressure
reducing valve on or after 01/01/2015, with a maximum amount of \$250.

Income Limits	Household Size							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	\$18,950	\$21,650	\$24,350	\$27,050	\$29,250	\$31,400	\$33,550	\$35,750

HISTORIC LEXINGTON

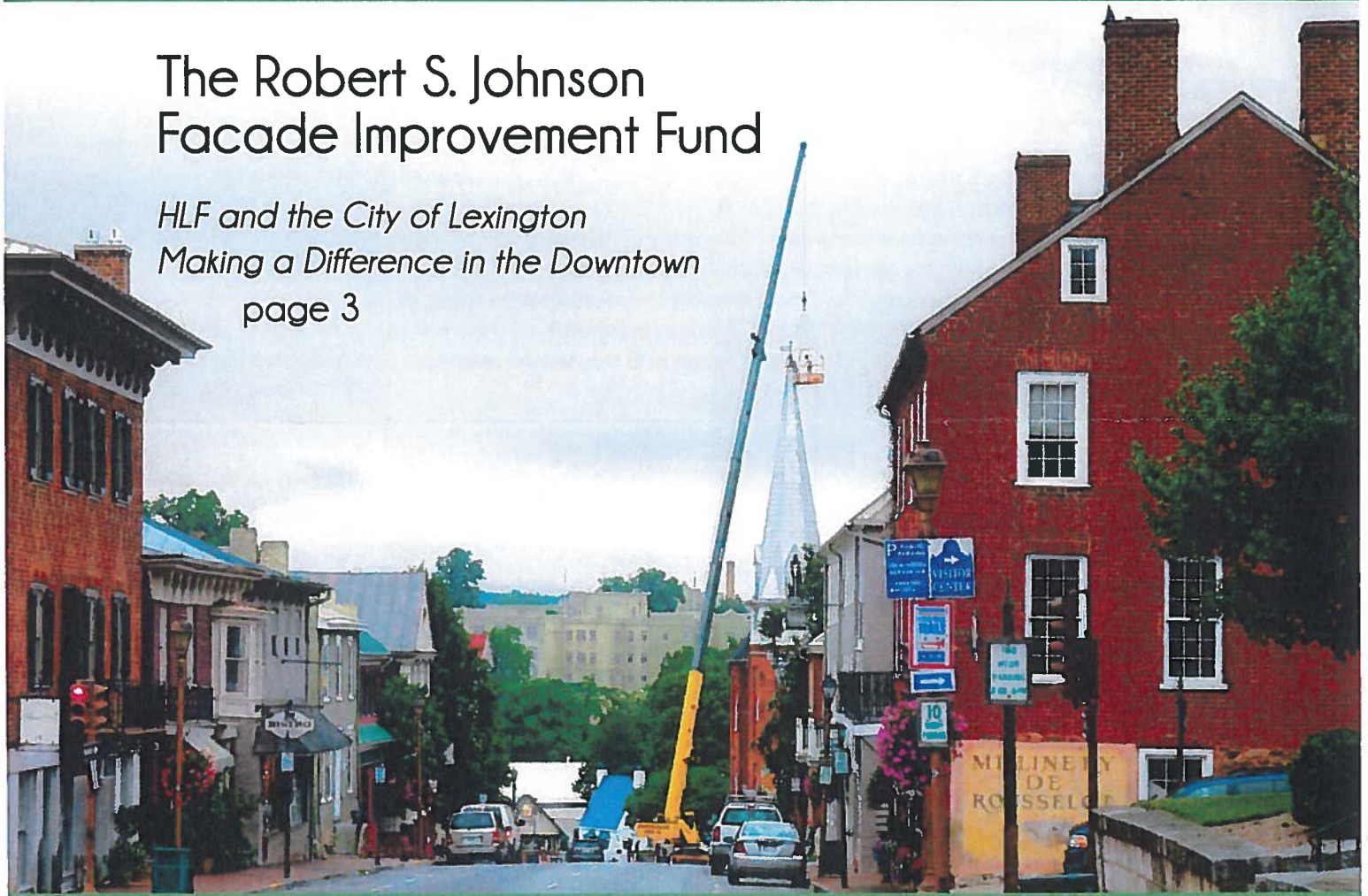
FOUNDATION

Newsletter

winter 2015

The Robert S. Johnson Facade Improvement Fund

*HLF and the City of Lexington
Making a Difference in the Downtown*
page 3



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- >Paxton House Restoration with HLF Grant
- >HLF to Publish Book on Rockbridge Architecture
- >Restoration Activities on Main Street





From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

It has been a privilege to serve as president of Historic Lexington Foundation for the past two years. As I reflect on that time with our organization, I'm pleased to note that a number of initiatives have been realized.

After several years of discussion, we have successfully made the transition to a membership organization. In conjunction with that, we have revised our charter and bylaws to more closely reflect the way our group has evolved over the years since its inception. We have established a streamlined financial reporting procedure in keeping with contemporary requirements for nonprofit groups such as ours.

We have been fortunate in being the beneficiaries of a number of generous gifts, and we take seriously both the stewardship of those funds, and the planning necessary to ensure that similar funding for our important work may be available in the future. We have partnered with the City of Lexington in establishing a Facade Grant program, which has already begun to reap visible benefits in the city streetscapes.

A considerable amount of effort in the past year has gone toward the preparation of a long-awaited book, *The Architecture of Historic Rockbridge*, which will serve as a companion piece to *The Architecture of Historic Lexington*, which has become the preeminent authority on the city's architecture since its publication by HLF in 1977. I am eagerly looking forward to the completion of that project in the near future.

HLF has been active on other fronts, including laying the groundwork for a future historic district at Jordan's Point. I am excited about the prospects for our Foundation as it enters the next phase under the leadership of my successor as president, Beverly Tucker, who brings phenomenal energy and talent to the post.

Sincerely,

H. E. Ravenhorst, AIA
President
HLF Board of Directors

Board of Directors 2014

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President

Beverly Tucker
Vice President

Peter Grover
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Suzanne Rice
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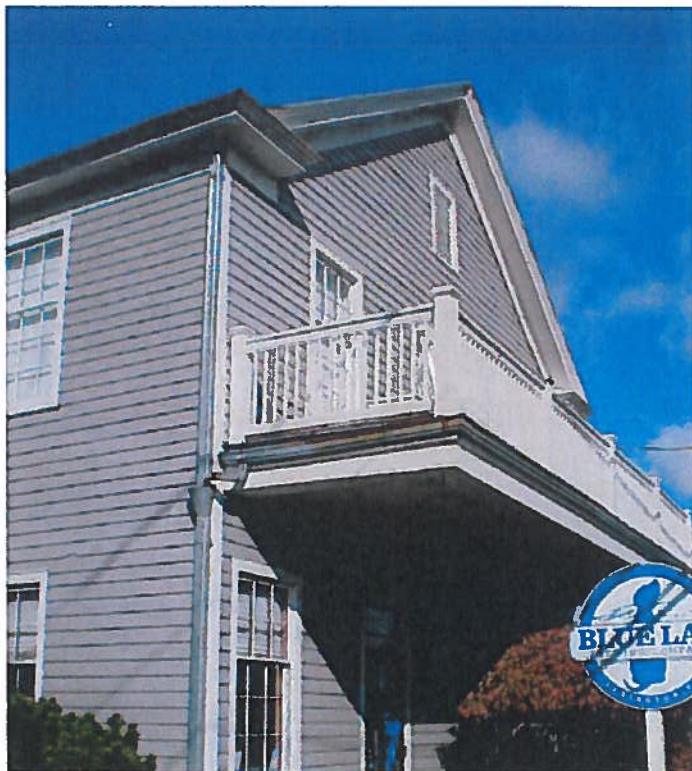
Don Hasfurther
Executive Director



Historic Lexington Foundation Facade Grant Program Helps Restore the Face of Lexington's Historic Downtown

Anyone visiting Lexington's downtown commercial district in 2014 undoubtedly witnessed more than the usual facade rehabilitation work in progress. Many of these projects were financed in part through the Robert S. Johnson Fund, a joint undertaking by HLF and the City of Lexington. Indeed, the program has been so successful that both HLF and the City have agreed to recapitalize the Fund for another year. Property owners are encouraged to take advantage of the incentive program.

HLF was particularly pleased to play a small role in the facade restoration work at the Alexander-Withrow Building and McCampbell Inn on N. Main Street. HLF played a key role in saving the buildings back in the 1970s when they were threatened with demolition by neglect. Today, the two buildings are operated as "The Georges" inns. The grants helped in the restoration of metal handrails on steps and balconies, restoration of exterior shutters and other exterior carpentry.



123 S. Randolph Street

Facade grants also were given for the painting of the building at 123 S. Randolph Street, repair and repainting of the exterior woodwork on the Rockbridge Historical Society's Campbell House, gutter repair and repainting of woodwork at 29 W. Nelson Street, and exterior wood repair and repainting at 5 W. Washington Street.

Probably the most dramatic of the projects undertaken with the assistance of a facade grant was the repainting of the First Baptist Church steeple and trim around the front windows. The photograph on the cover of this newsletter captures the work in progress high on a lift. With the work accomplished this summer, the shining steeple can be seen from numerous vantage points in the downtown. HLF is honored to have played a role in the project.



Workers reinstall restored ironwork on the balcony of Alexander-Withrow Building



5 W. Washington Street



HLF Preservation Grant For Paxton House Restoration

The following article was written by Andy Wolfe on behalf of the Paxton House Historical Society in December of 2014.

Buena Vista VA – The Historic Lexington Foundation (HLF) is lending the Paxton House Historical Society a big hand in the final restoration phase of the historic 1828-31 Paxton House, one of Rockbridge County's most historic properties, located in the Glen Maury Park, Buena Vista. HLF presented a \$2,000.00 grant check at a special program held December 1st in the Paxton House.

The Paxton House is now one of the finest examples of early 19th century architecture in Virginia. It became an asset of the City of Buena Vista in 1968. For the next 30 years nothing was done to the house and its condition gradually deteriorated. Local citizens decided to establish a program to save the antebellum structure and the Paxton House Historical Society was formed in 1995. Nineteen years and over 1 million dollars later, the end is in sight.

The Paxton House Historical Society has actively conducted local fundraising campaigns to complete the exterior restoration of the building and the spring house. The final cost of the exterior work was nearly double the original estimates but commensurate with current building and material costs.

The restoration has been a pay-as-you-go project. The most recent projects include electrical service and lighting, heat and climate control. The City of Buena Vista constructed a new fence this past month. Plastering and priming the walls on the second floor will begin this week. The anticipated completion will be summer 2015.

When the restoration is complete, the first floor will feature a period furnished living room, historical displays and meeting room. The second floor will have a period furnished bedroom, reading room and artifact display and the Historical Society's office.

The Paxton House will be open for a living history program May 1-3, 2015.



Paxton House exterior restoration work



Window Restoration by Wayne Flint



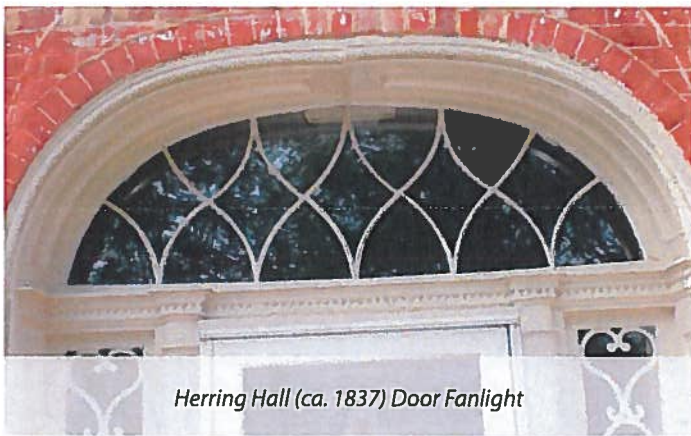
*Working to stabilize the pillar foundation on the front of the house.
The brick was later plastered white.*

HLF to Publish Book on the Architectural History of Rockbridge County

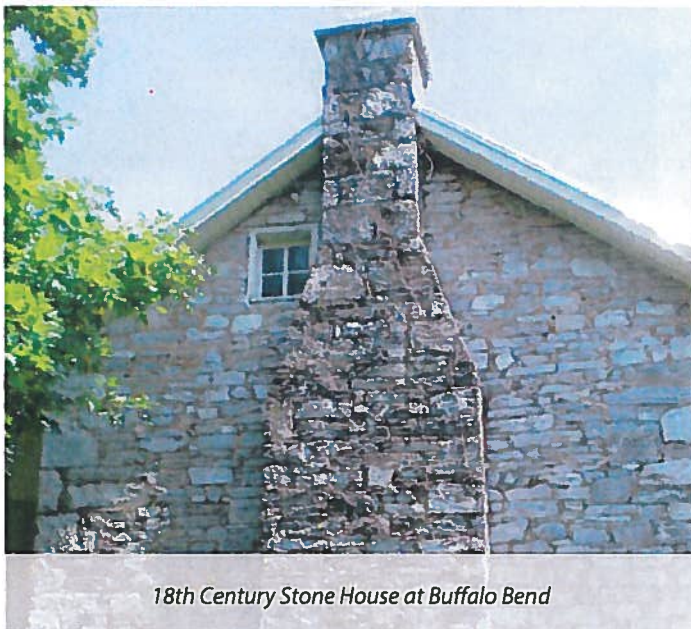
The *Architecture of Historic Rockbridge* will be a companion volume to *The Architecture of Historic Lexington* first published in 1977 by Royster Lyle, Jr. and Pamela Simpson with photographs by Sally Mann. The book will be dedicated to Lyle and Simpson, both of whom were important contributors to the work of HLF.

The Rockbridge book, which is planned for publication in the fall of 2015, will reflect the wonderfully rich and diverse architectural history of the county, including its two cities, Lexington and Buena Vista. The book will trace the area's architecture from the 18th century through the post-World War II period. It is intended to be both scholarly and engaging, presenting architectural analysis in a manner accessible to a general readership.

Architectural historian J. Daniel Pezzoni is the book's author. He has been supported in this effort by a book committee made up primarily of HLF board members. The book will be richly illustrated throughout with both current and archival images. The photographs on this page are merely illustrative of the architecture and architectural details that will be included in the volume.



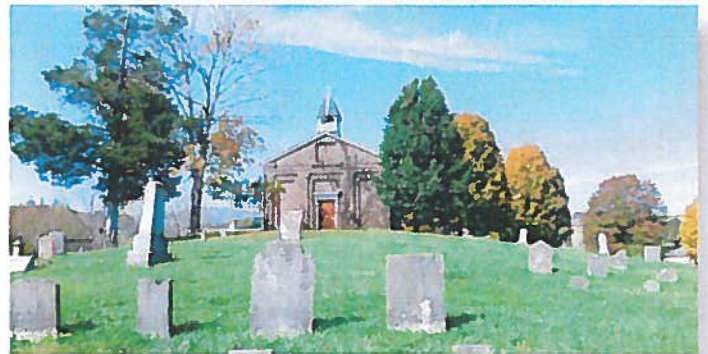
Herring Hall (ca. 1837) Door Fanlight



18th Century Stone House at Buffalo Bend



*Charles F. Jordan House (ca. 1890)
Buena Vista (courtesy W&L Special Collections)*



Oxford Presbyterian Church (ca. 1856) and Cemetery



*Goshen (ca. 1900) with Alleghany Hotel
(courtesy W&L Special Collections)*

Restoration Activities Along Lexington's Main Street

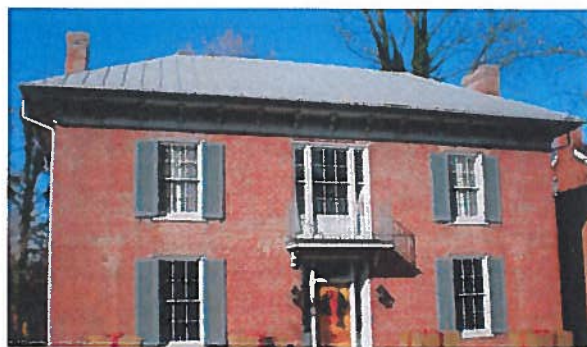
In April, Historic Lexington Foundation awarded its annual Founders' Awards to Charlie Hallock and Rebecca Wilson for their meticulous restorations of the J. T. McCrum House and the Grace House, respectively. The two residential buildings are prominently situated on S. Main Street. As is often the case, restoration can be contagious. Since the awards, a number of additional homes near the intersection of S. Main Street and Edmondson Avenue have undergone significant rehabilitations.

At the other end of Main Street, the unit block of N. Main Street has witnessed stellar restoration projects. As reported under the facade grant article in this newsletter, the Gottwald family has returned the Alexander-Withrow Building and McCampbell Inn to their former elegance and they are once again important economic contributors to Lexington. Both buildings went through major rehabilitations in 2013-14 on the way to becoming "The Georges." Next door to the McCampbell Inn, the Jacob Ruff House is seeing new life thanks to restoration efforts of the Cory family.

As seen on the cover of this newsletter, the First Baptist Church has gone through a major project to repaint the church steeple. Additionally, the historic Knights of Pythias Building now sits closer

to the downtown after an October move by VMI. The building awaits rehabilitation and a new use. Its new place on N. Main Street will hopefully make that a more viable proposition.

And certainly not least in a list of Main Street restoration activities, Historic Lexington Foundation welcomes the major rehabilitation and reopening of the Robert E. Lee Hotel. The hotel, which had been an important hub in Lexington beginning in the 1930s, is once again an important contributor to the City's economic livelihood thanks to Ugo Benincasa and his development team.



J. T. McCrum House



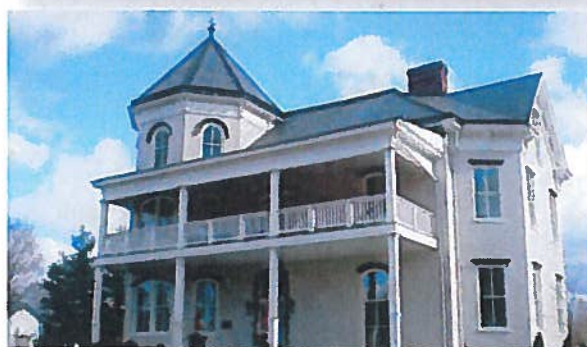
Alexander-Withrow Building



McCampbell Inn



Jacob Ruff House



Grace House

Thanks To Our Contributors

A list of those whose gifts were received between October 2013 and October 2014

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For maintenance of McDowell Cemetery
H. E. Ravenhorst

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For maintenance of McDowell Cemetery

Beatrice Tharp
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Vaughan, Jr.
Col. and Mrs. Richard Weede
Eric Wilson

Other support for which HLF is most grateful:

Ben and Carol Grigsby for critical office support

Sigma Nu National Fraternity for annual meeting site and support

Peter Grover and Skip Ravenhorst for annual meeting support

Dan Pezzoni and Taylor Sanders for Preservation Month lectures

The many area historic churches for opening their doors during National Preservation Month

Those who helped in the maintenance of the McDowell Cemetery

Beverly Tucker for creating the display at the Miller's House

Col. Keith Gibson for talk on Jordan's Point at the Miller's House

Members of the Book Committee—
Alison Bell, Don Hasfurther, Dan Pezzoni, Skip Ravenhorst, and Suzanne Rice—for work on *The Architecture of Historic Rockbridge*

Charles Bodie, Matt Paxton, Jr. and Mary Stuart Gilliam for reading and critiquing book draft

Virginia Historical Society

Bob Keefe for design work on the book and sponsorship brochure

Anne McClung for design work on the dust jacket of the book

City of Lexington for collaboration on facade grant program

Special Collections at W&L, Department of Historic Resources, and Library of Virginia for help with book images



Special thanks to Susan Brady for making Buffalo Forge available as the site of the 2015 HLF Annual Meeting

2014 Remembered in Photos



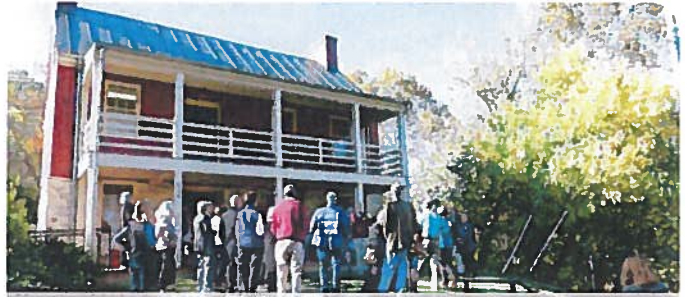
April: HLF Annual Meeting at Sigma Nu National Headquarters



May: National Preservation Month Focuses on Historic Churches in Rockbridge



July: HLF Awards Facade Grant to First Baptist Church for Repair and Repainting of Steeple



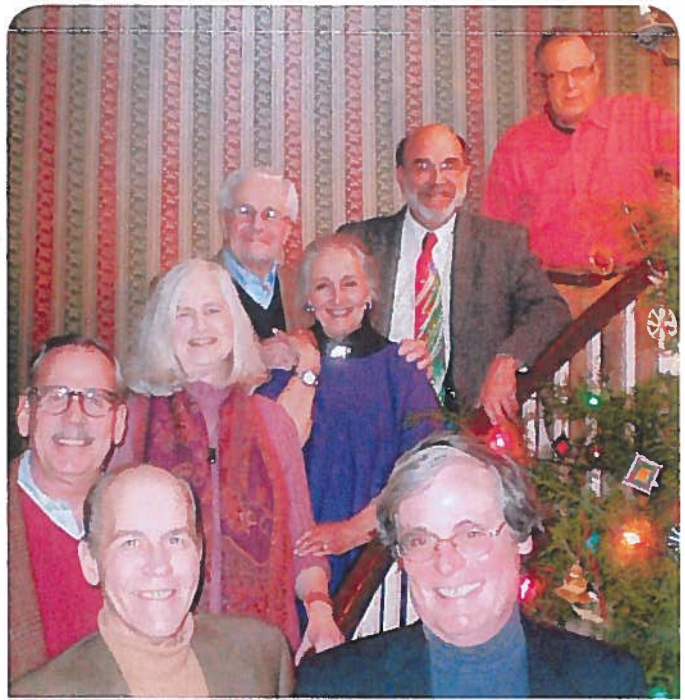
October: Col. Keith Gibson Speaks to HLF Membership at the Miller's House at Jordan's Point



October: VMI Moves Knights of Pythias Building to New Location on North Main Street



December: HLF Presents Grant for Preservation of Paxton House.



December: HLF board and staff give Skip Ravenhorst (second from top) send off after two years as HLF President

SAVE The Date! ► HLF Annual Meeting • Historic Buffalo Forge • Saturday, April 11th at 2pm

City of Lexington

February 2015

February 16	MONDAY	February 23
<p><i>President's Day</i></p> <p>Closed City Offices are</p>		
February 17	TUESDAY	February 24
<p>5:00 p.m. Planning Commission Lexington Police Department, First Floor Conference Room</p>		
February 18	WEDNESDAY	February 25
<p>2:00 p.m. Lexington Police Department Promotional Ceremony, The Center for Leadership and Ethics, VMI Marshall Hall, 500 Anderson Drive</p>		
February 19	THURSDAY	February 26
<p>4:00 p.m. Architectural Review Board City Hall Community Room, First Floor</p> <p>7:00 p.m. CC Work Session: CIP Rockbridge Extension Office, Second Floor</p> <p>8:00 p.m. Lexington City Council Rockbridge Admin Bldg, First Floor</p>		
February 20	FRIDAY	February 27

2015 FEBRUARY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28